

TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS
MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
FOUNTAIN HILLS STRATEGIC PLANNING ADVISORY COMMISSION
AND THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TOWN COUNCIL

MARCH 30, 2010

AGENDA ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER

SPAC Chair Audra Koester Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2 – ROLL CALL

Present for roll call were the following members of the Fountain Hills Town Council: Mayor Jay T. Schlum, Vice Mayor Cassie Hansen, Councilmember Mike Archambault, Councilmember Dennis Brown, Councilmember Dennis Contino, Councilmember Ginny Dickey, and Councilmember Henry Leger.

Present for roll call were the following members of the Strategic Planning Advisory Commission: Commissioner Mike Dooley, Vice Chairman Curt Dunham, Commissioner Alan Magazine, Youth Commissioner Katie Myhr, Commissioner Rich Schultz, Commissioner Allen Siebel, and Chair Audra Koester Thomas. Commissioner Charlotte McCluskey was excused from the meeting. Also in attendance were Town Manager Rick Davis, Town Attorney Andrew McGuire, and Recording Secretary Shaunna Williams.

AGENDA ITEM #3 – DISCUSSION OF WORKING DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

Chair Koester Thomas delivered a PowerPoint presentation entitled *Strategic Plan Update: 2009-2010* (copy attached). The working draft strategic plan (copy attached) had been distributed prior to the meeting for review. However, because a graphic on page 5 of the working draft had not printed properly, Chair Koester Thomas distributed corrected copies of page 5 (copy attached) during the meeting.

During the PowerPoint presentation, items discussed included: financial “tools” available to generate additional revenues for the Town; renewable energy as a Strategic Direction under Environmental Stewardship; the connotation of the word “multiculturalism”; and the nexus between education, informed voting and civic responsibility.

Following her presentation, Chair Koester Thomas called for questions and comments.

Mayor Schlum thanked the Commission for the quality of their work, the amount of outreach, and the professional product achieved by the SPAC.

Councilmember Archambault noted the volunteer effort contributed by the SPAC and expressed his gratitude.

Mayor Schlum noted his appreciation to the SPAC for keeping the Council up-to-date on the process. He inquired as to what additional opportunities would be available for feedback from the Council and the public.

Chair Koester Thomas stated that SPAC would like an indication of comfort with the draft document from the Council before the SPAC seeks citizen feedback. She stated that the SPAC would host a public workshop in April and create a revised plan in May for consideration and possible adoption by the Council.

Mayor Schlum noted that the public may associate costs with the plan.

Chair Koester Thomas stated that the vast majority of actions can be initiated without big expenditures. She noted that the plan is intended to be a living document and that vision will not be fulfilled in one year. She also indicated that staff will provide an action plan that is responsive to the current economic environment.

Councilmember Hansen pointed out that the “greening project” is going forwarding without funding.

Councilmember Archambault referred to the “Adopt-a-grandparent” program listed in the Idea Box as a low cost initiative.

Mayor Schlum stated that the terms “enhance,” “empower,” and “encourage” were used in creating Council Goal in order to indicate that the Town values initiative and is looking for partners.

Councilmember Leger stated that the SPAC has done an awesome job and that the culture of planning lives. He further stated that he is optimistic that we can implement the vast majority of items utilizing what he calls “high involvement governance,” where the Town steps aside and encourages public/private partnerships.

Commissioner Magazine pointed out that this is not a “SPAC document” and that he hopes it will be adopted and embraced by the Council as a “Council document.”

Mayor Schlum referred to the Council’s challenge in tempering their own desires and molding them to the desires of the citizens.

Chair Koester Thomas requested that Council identify “fatal flaws” in the plan prior to SPAC taking the draft plan to the citizens.

Councilmember Dickey mentioned the importance of keeping in mind that we are a part of a region and state. She also stated her approval of the Idea Box and asked if the Idea Box would be ongoing.

Chair Koester Thomas stated that the purpose of the Idea Box is to be an evolving repository of ideas to be revisited as appropriate.

Councilmember Hansen referred to the expanded trail network and questioned whether that could be implemented without exploring legal ramifications.

Chair Koester Thomas noted that all ideas would need to be fully vetted prior to implementation.

Councilmember Leger stated, in order for Council to their separate personal ideologies, it is necessary to keep in mind that this is the people’s plan; that it is a matter of keeping the goal in mind and allocating available resources.

Councilmember Archambault suggested that, in order for Council to evaluate potential red flags, they should ask if they can identify with or relate to the plan, and whether it is plausible and doable.


Vice Chair Dunham concurred with Councilmember Archambault and stated that Strategic Directions are written so that they are always works in progress. He stated that Council’s annual action plan and annual budget should dictate how to get the work done. He also noted that SPAC is looking for consensus from the Council that Strategic Directions are appropriate; if they are not, SPAC needs to know before taking the draft plan to the public.

Chair Koester Thomas pointed out that, although Council may not be fans of all of the ideas in the Idea Box, they were placed there so that ideas of the public and staff found a “home.” She asked that Council communicate any “fatal flaws” identified by Council to her as soon as possible. She thanked the Council for their review and support.

AGENDA ITEM #10 – ADJOURN

Commissioner Magazine **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting and Vice Chairman Dunham **SECONDED** the motion, which **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** by those present. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shaunna Williams".

By: _____

Shaunna Williams, Recording Secretary